

## VISION 21 IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes, October 2, 2003

*Approved October 16, 2003*

**Members present:** Jenny Fallon, Joseph Greene, Tim Higgins, Margaret O'Brien, Jennifer Page, Paul Solomon, Barry Winston

**Members absent:** Victoria Haase, Matthew Hausmann, Bill Hoffman, Sara Oaklander

**Also Present:** Dolores Keefe

**7:10 p.m.** There being a quorum, the meeting was opened by Jennifer Page.

**7:12 p.m.** The minutes from September 18<sup>th</sup> were approved as drafted 6:0.

Reports and updates were provided as follows:

### **Permitting**

Tim Higgins discussed the status of the effort to improve the permitting system. He has met twice with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Planning Board and has one more meeting with the ZBA. He has been pleasantly surprised with the high level of cooperation and agreement from the ZBA as many proposed changes involve them. Both appear to be in general support of his proposals and will draft correspondence to the Board of Selectmen stating such by October 15, 2003. Proposed zoning amendments will be developed for consideration at a spring Town Meeting. He also noted that the Planning Board will be holding a Public Hearing on October 21, 2003 on 6 zoning amendments developed as a result of the Economic Development Plan.

### **Joe Greene - Newcomer's Network**

There is an October 20 meeting scheduled for New Comers here at the library. It will be posted the week of October 6, 2003 to keep it fresh in people's minds. Joe commented that he hopes Adine Storer will become chair as she has been taking leadership in organizing most of the work.

### **Barry Winston - Newcomer's booklet**

Revisions to the booklet are being received and processed. The project is progressing well and should be completed in a timely manner

### **Jennifer Page - BEDPG update (reporting on behalf of Sara Oaklander)**

The Waverley Square Fire Station Ready Resource Fund (RRF) application is being worked on by Sara Oaklander, Roger Colton, Jennifer Page, Jeffrey Wheeler and Tim Higgins. The EO 418 waiver request (regarding affordable housing) has been formally submitted by OCD on September 26, 2003. The RRF application is conditional upon this waiver being granted. J. Page will contact State Representative Paulsen and State Sen. Steve Tolman to see if they can monitor the progress of the E0 418 Waiver Request.

The required Public Hearing for the RFP application is October 7<sup>th</sup> during the BEDPG meeting. It was advertised in the Citizen Herald today. Both the V-21 and BEDPG will take a lead role in the process. The proposal is geared toward public outreach. Jenny Fallon asked about a presentation to the November 17, 2003 Town Meeting. It was agreed this would be a good idea but we still need a positive reply on the Waiver request. A brief discussion ensued on the viability of the proposal – regardless of the grant status.

Joe Greene recommends the Waiver request be further explained and believes the affordable housing issue is a hot one – especially in Precinct 3. The whole process and Town-wide plans for affordable housing should be explained. Paul Solomon brought up the disposition of the two fire stations and the need to have an organized and open process that can be followed in other situations.

**Jennifer Page - Public Information and Communications (P.I.C.) Group (reporting on behalf of Meg O'Brien)**

The next Public Forum of the PIC is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2003, room # 2 in Town Hall at 7:30 P.M. The V-21 The forum will overlap with V-21's meeting. Jennifer has changed the location of the next V-21 meeting from the library to the Town Hall. V-21 will meet from 7:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and then move to Room 2 to attend the PIC meeting.

November 7 is the Watertown/Belmont Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting/Award banquet. The V-21 Committee has been selected to receive the award for Service to the Business Community. Jennifer noted that all should appreciate the recognition of our work that this implies; additionally, it will be good publicity for the Committee. Jennifer will attend and receive the award on behalf of the Committee. Paul believes this is a good acknowledgment of all of the work we have done to promote businesses in Belmont.

**Environmental Project:**

Jennifer Page and Jenny Fallon have met to begin formulating a plan to implement/use the data collected to date in Jenny's report. They are not quite sure of where to go and will meet with Linda Pinkow (Citizen Herald editor) to discuss this. Other individuals from the Belmont Citizens Forum, Police, Fire Department and Stormwater Management Committee and Planning Board will all be contacted to attend a future meeting.

Sustainable Buildings - Standards for such are normally part of Permanent Building Committee requirements. It is difficult to force such requirements on private-sector development. The Planning Board does not play a role in the public building process (through Design and Site Plan review for example).

Jennifer Page met with Linda Pinkow for ideas about how to disseminate meaningfully the summary. Linda suggested that several key proposals or ideas be gleaned from the report to bring to the public; and encouraged us to put the whole document on the web. Public involvement/participation via a forum for example is important. The issue has to be brought into public discussion. Jenny Fallon does not think the V-21 Committee is

prepared to identify 3-5 most important issues for future discussion. The question is how to educate the public and elicit comments and interest to identify the most important issues and to guide where the process should go. A lengthy discussion ensued on various options to accomplish this goal.

For example, should the Committee go see the Permanent Building Committee? It was noted that several members are already committed to creating guidelines incorporating “green” criteria. Green guidelines need to be “institutionalized” for future users/participants. It was then suggested to locate professionals in Belmont who have experience in “green buildings” and who have previously volunteered to assist. They could act a resource for others such as the Permanent Building Committee or to draft a primer on green buildings. It is time to create a sub-committee to run with this now? There was a question as to whether the goals for the environmental issues are well enough defined (re: is a mandate necessary?), if at all. The two options to entice people to participate were discussed:

1. Define specific goals that people could be interested in
2. Provide a basic explanation of environmental issues and allow interested citizens to define their own specific issues.

A forum will be held to try to locate interested citizens to participate. Jenny has categorized her data into six (6) categories – this could be the basis for determining interest and what’s most important at a forum. The organization of the forums could replicate the success followed during the business friendly forums from last fall. Specific volunteers would be invited along with broad-based advertising to obtain general public participation. There was agreement to this process.

**Other business:**

Joe Greene asked members to look at the new “bump-out” in Waverly Square. It does not seem to work well.

Paul Solomon noted that the Budget Committee meeting, Monday evening resulted in a call to him by a resident suggesting issue of the Vision Statement to guide the funding of the capital projects. He was pleased to see that this report has entered the vernacular of the residents

**9:15 p.m.** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Submitted by recording secretary pro-tem,  
Timothy Higgins